

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 SY-10 USSS-00

SCA-01 EB-11 SR-02 ORM-03 /169 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:SGEORGE:BCM

APPROVED BY D - MR. RUSH

EUR - MR. SPRINGSTEEN

S/S - MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

S E C R E T STATE 197253

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PFOR, AU, IS

SUBJECT: EMIGRE TRANSIT PROBLEM IN AUSTRIA: JEWISH
GROUP CALL ON DEPARTMENT

REF: A. STATE 194596

B. VIENNA 8086

1. GROUP OF TEN PERSONS REPRESENTING VARIOUS MAJOR JEWISH
ORGANIZATIONS CALLED OCTOBER 1 ON DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH
TO DISCUSS RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENT IN VIENNA AND AUSTRIAN
DECISION CEASE PROVIDING FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO
EMIGRES. DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON (1) GENERAL QUESTION OF
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GOVERNMENTAL CHANGE OF POLICY AS RESULT TERRORIST THREATS

AND WHAT IF ANYTHING MIGHT BE DONE TO EFFECT AUSTRIAN REVERSAL OF DECISION, AND (2) SPECIFIC QUESTION OF HOW MAINTAIN FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, SO THAT EMIGRE FLOW THROUGH AUSTRIA CAN CONTINUE.

2. ON FIRST POINT, DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED OUR POSITION AND ACTIONS TO DATE, DRAWING ON REFTELS. HE SAID CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR HUMES WAS DISAPPOINTING, THAT CHANCELLOR OBVIOUSLY TAKING VERY HARD LINE, BUT WE NEVERTHELESS EXPECT CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH AUSTRIANS. AS DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN MADE CLEAR OCTOBER 1, WE DO NOT RPT NOT AGREE WITH DECISION, AND ARE

STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY YIELDING TO TERRORIST DEMANDS. HOWEVER, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID WE SEE NO USEFULNESS IN GOING PUBLIC WITH SPECIFIC AND POINTED CRITICISM OF AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT, OR OVERT PRESSURE TACTICS, SINCE AUSTRIANS HAVE PAINTED THEMSELVES INTO CORNER AT PRESENT, AND SUCH USG TACTICS LIKELY ONLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

3. ON SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING FACILITIES IN SOME MANNER, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID AUSTRIAN POSITION THAT OTHERS SHOULD SHARE EFFORT WITH THEM TO GREATER DEGREE SEEMS OFFER BEST CHANCE WORK SOMETHING OUT IN QUIET WAY, AND WE WILL BE PURSUING THIS ENDEAVOR, AS PRESENT SUPER-HEATED ATMOSPHERE BEGINS COOL A BIT. JEWISH AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE NOTED THAT SCHOENAU IS STILL FUNCTIONING NORMALLY, THAT AUSTRIANS HAVE NOT AS YET SAID ANYTHING TO AGENCY ABOUT CLOSING IT, AND UNDERTOOK KEEP DEPARTMENT (CE) POSTED.

4. GROUP SEEMED SATISFIED WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY'S EXPLANATION OF USG POSITION AND ACTIONS TO DATE, AND EXPRESSED HOPE WE WOULD CONTINUE ATTEMPT VIA QUIET DIPLOMACY TO UNDO DAMAGE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE FOR PRESENT AT LEAST THEY DID NOT SEEM THINK THAT MOUNTING PUBLIC CAMPAIGN OF CASTIGATION AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT FOR YIELDING TO TERRORIST DEMANDS WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMIGRANTS, REFUGEE CAMPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE197253
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SGEORGE:BCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS RUSH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731052/aaaabmiz.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 194596
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMIGRE TRANSIT PROBLEM IN AUSTRIA: JEWISH GROUP CALL ON DEPARTMENT
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PFOR, AU, IS
To: VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005